


# Planning and Development Department Update

**DATE:** July 29, 2011  
**TO:** Mayor Setti D. Warren  
**FROM:** Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development   
**RE:** Friday Report  
**CC:** Board of Aldermen  
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

<b>Monday</b> <b>8/1/11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Planning &amp; Development Board, <b><i>Cancelled</i></b></li></ul>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>8/2/11</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>8/3/11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fair Housing Committee, 8:00 a.m., Room 202</li><li>Policy and Programs Subcommittee of the Newton Housing Partnership, 11:00 a.m., Room 222</li><li>West Newton Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., Newton Community Service Center</li></ul>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>8/4/11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Farm Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 222</li><li>Newtonville Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 202</li></ul>

- **Best Wishes – Kathleen!** The Planning and Development Department will say goodbye to Kathleen Cahill today. Kathleen, our Senior Community Development Planner, is joining her husband in Rhode Island where they are starting a new chapter in their life together, which includes his new job at Bryant University and settling into their first house. Kathleen has thoughtfully and thoroughly managed an array of programs and services for Newton's low- and moderate-income residents. Never flustered or overwhelmed with paperwork, always gracious and helpful, she deftly navigated a myriad of federal requirements with multiple deadlines keeping us all on track and in good stead with HUD. She was the rudder for the Planning and Development Board and the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, which recently became the Commission on Disability. When there was an unexpected vacancy and she was asked to become the City's ADA Coordinator, she accepted on the spot and threw herself into her new responsibilities. In her tenure, Kathleen learned to wield a smart level, talk shop with City engineers, interpret obtuse instructions for electronic submissions to HUD and charm the cafeteria into offering ice cream. Good luck, Kathleen. We are going to miss you!
- **Fair Housing Committee:** The Committee will meet on **Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 8:00 a.m. in Room 202, Newton City Hall. Agenda items include consideration of approval of July meeting minutes; action recommendations for accessibility report, including further roll-out and advocacy efforts; membership developments; consideration of request for proposals for MAPC's Sustainable Communities Consortium; and other business. **Contact Robert Muollo at 617.796.1146 or [rmuollo@newtonma.gov](mailto:rmuollo@newtonma.gov).**
- **Policy and Programs Subcommittee of the Newton Housing Partnership:** The subcommittee will meet on **Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 11:00 a.m. in Room 222, Newton City Hall. Agenda items include the development of a subcommittee workplan including identification of proposed goals and timeframes. This report will be presented at the next scheduled Newton Housing Partnership meeting on August 10th. **Contact Robert Muollo at 617.796.1146 or [rmuollo@newtonma.gov](mailto:rmuollo@newtonma.gov).**
- **West Newton Advisory Committee:** The Committee is scheduled to meet on **Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. at the Newton Community Service Center, 492 Waltham Street, Cooper Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. Agenda items include voting for chair and vice-chair and project discussion for Cheesecake Brook Area Improvements and Washington Street Corridor Improvements. **Contact Danielle Bailey at 617.796.1139 or [dbailey@newtonma.gov](mailto:dbailey@newtonma.gov).**

- **Newton Farm Commission:** The Farm Commission will meet on **Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 222. The following items are on the agenda: Updates on farm operations; Second Quarter Financials; Consideration of request to seek additional CPC funding for the Barn renovation; Review of minutes from the May and June meeting. **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or [aananth@newtonma.gov](mailto:aananth@newtonma.gov).**
- **Newtonville Historic District Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 202. The following items are on the agenda: **47 Page Road**, request to rebuild front stairs and replace metal railings with wood; and **182 Walnut Street**, request to obtain approval for vinyl fence ex post facto. Other business includes approval of minutes from the November 2010 and July 2011 meetings. **Contact Katy Holmes at 617.796.1143 or [kholmes@newtonma.gov](mailto:kholmes@newtonma.gov).**
- **SAVE THE DATE - FAR Public Forum:** The Planning and Development Department will offer a public forum on **Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 a.m., location to be announced, to review and answer questions about the recently adopted new floor area ratio (FAR) regulations for one- and two-family homes in residential zoning districts, which will **take effect October 15, 2011**. Prior to the meeting we encourage you to visit our website [www.newtonma.gov/planning/FAR.php](http://www.newtonma.gov/planning/FAR.php) where you'll find FAQ's, FAR calculator and more helpful information. The Inspectional Services and Planning Departments are asking those submitting applications for building permits and special permits to please use the worksheet on the website (also available at the ISD counter at City Hall) to calculate FAR under both current and new regulations. The data may help applicants decide whether they wish to wait until October 15<sup>th</sup> to submit an application and will also be used to monitor implementation of the new FAR regulations. **For more information please view the FAQ's from the web link above, email us at [FAR@newtonma.gov](mailto:FAR@newtonma.gov) or call 617.796.1120.**
- **Announcing the "Commercial Real Estate Connection":** Are you a business owner looking to rent retail, office, R&D, or industrial space in Newton? Are you a property owner or broker with a space in Newton that is seeking a tenant? Are you someone who shops or works in Newton's village centers or commercial corridors and wonders what the City can do to fill vacant storefronts? We are pleased to announce the "Commercial Real Estate Connection." This service, which provides listings of commercial vacancies that will be updated frequently, is part of a recent overhaul of the City's Economic Development website: [www.newtonma.gov/business](http://www.newtonma.gov/business). This link makes it easier for those who are unfamiliar with Newton to learn about the City's geographic and demographic advantages, understand our unique landscape of village centers and commercial corridors, and know who to call for assistance in City Hall. **Contact Amanda Stout at 617.796.1127 or [astout@newtonma.gov](mailto:astout@newtonma.gov).**
- **Community Preservation Committee:** The Committee's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in the Newton Senior Center (345 Walnut Street, Newtonville). The agenda has not been finalized, but is expected to include a housing pre-proposal and an off-cycle historic resources full proposal, on which there may be a funding vote. Final agendas, pre-proposals and proposals are made available before the meeting from [www.newtonma.gov/cpa](http://www.newtonma.gov/cpa). The Committee now requires pre-proposals, which it accepts for and discusses at any of its regular, monthly public meetings. **The last possible date to submit a pre-proposal for the next funding round will be July 1, 2012 – a year from now – but the earlier you submit your pre-proposal, the better.** For more information **contact Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager, [www.newtonma.gov/cpa](http://www.newtonma.gov/cpa), 617.796.1144 or [aingerson@newtonma.gov](mailto:aingerson@newtonma.gov).**

